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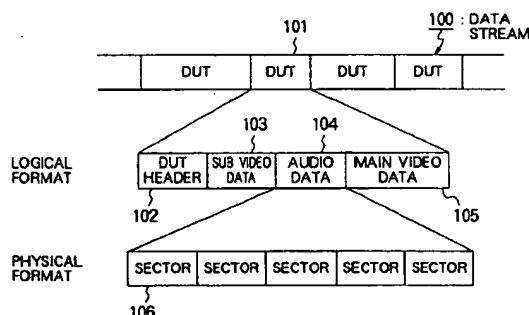
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(54) **Method of recording/reproducing optical disk by sector link data including address information of unit data or a program related to sectors, disk including the sector link data, and apparatus for and method of reproducing the disk.**

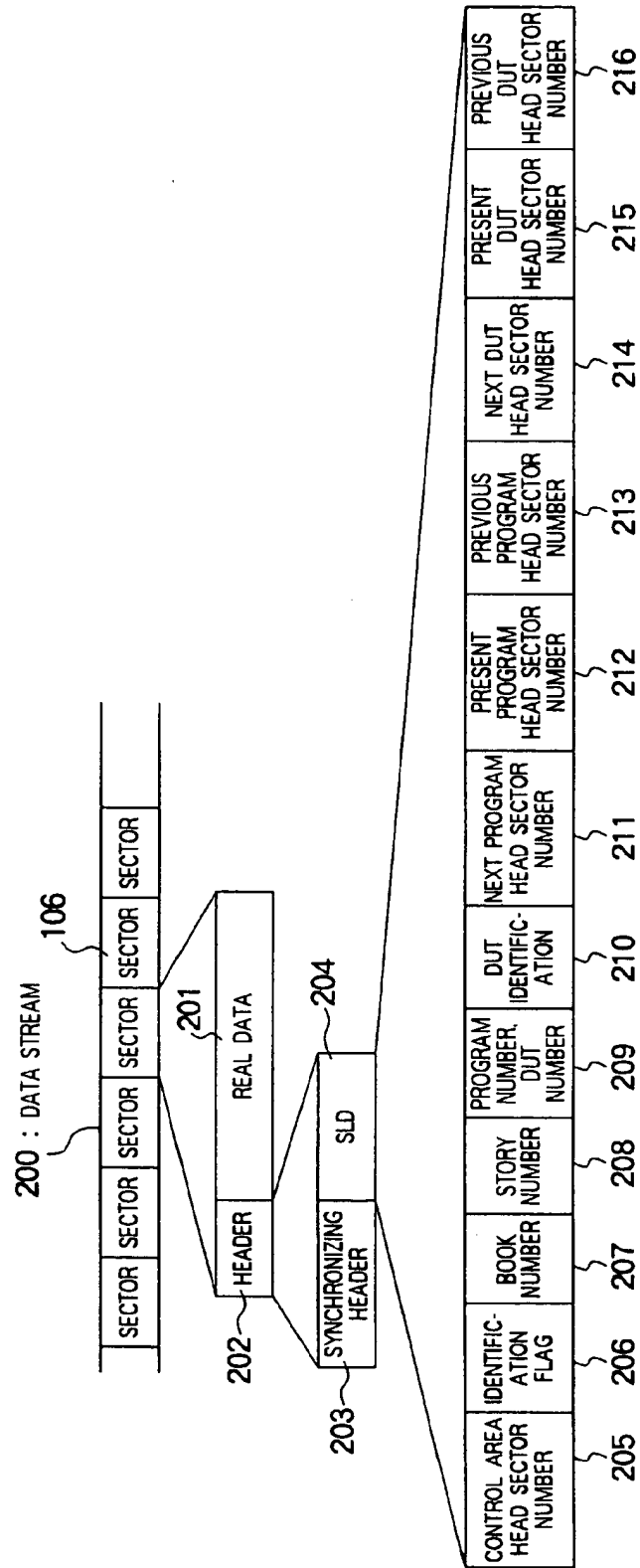
(57) An optical disk on which data are recorded with variable length DUT taken as a unit, the DUT being composed of a DUT header, sub video data, audio data, and main video data on a logical format and of a plurality of sectors on a physical format, each sector including as SLD (sector link data) a control area head sector number, an identification flag, a BOOK number, a story number, a program number, DUT identification, a next program head sector number, a previous program head sector number, a next DUT head sector number, a present DUT head sector number, and a previous DUT head sector number, all recorded thereon. Accordingly, there is eliminated a memory for storing a control table from the reproduction apparatus.

FIG. 1



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FIG. 2



The present invention relates to a method of recording/reproducing optical disks, etc., on each of which audio and video signals are recorded, and to such optical disks, and further to an apparatus for and a method of reproducing such optical disks.

Recently, disk reproducing apparatuses for reproducing optical disks on each of which audio and picture images are recorded are prevalent, and are being utilized as those for movie software and karaoke for example. Further, reproduction apparatuses each for reproducing an optical disk on which speech data and picture data are digital-recorded are also known, and are commercially available as karaoke systems for example. The optical disk is the same in its size as a CD (compact disk) so that it is advantageous in that an entire apparatus can be miniaturized.

FIG. 9 is a view illustrating a recording format for such an optical disk.

As illustrated in FIG. 9, the recording format comprises a read-in area 1, an information area 2, a data area 3, and a read-out area 4. A track (program) 1 corresponds to the information area 2. Tracks 2 up to 99 corresponding to the data area 3 on which compressed video data and compressed audio data are recorded. Each track (program) in the data area 3 comprises physically an array of video data V and audio data A separated in sectors as illustrated in FIG. 10, wherein there are arranged about six successive video sectors V and one audio sector A such that a video signal and a sound signal are synchronized.

A control table indicative of a reproduction procedure of a program stored in the data area 3 is recorded in the information area 2. In the case of a movie for example, since one movie comprises a series of programs, a control table indicative of a reproduction procedure among these programs is essential. A disk reproduction apparatus previously stores the control table in a memory upon starting the reproduction of a disk, and continuously reproduces the programs in conformity with the procedure recorded in the control table. A greater memory capacity is therefore required for the disk reproduction apparatus which memory is capable of storing all contents in the control table.

Recently, compression encoding of audio data and video data employs the MPEG (Moving Picture Image Coding Expert Group) system of the International Standard Specification, which system is to compress data in a variable length. It is theoretically possible to control with the control table such information of a GOP (Group of Picture) being a coding unit of an MPEG video signal as a sector and a position (bit) in the sector where the GOP exists, in order to improve a random access property. Construction of such a control table however complicates processing on the system side, and in addition requires a greater memory capacity. Accordingly, such control is limited actually to that on the program unit basis.

Accordingly, a conventional reproduction apparatus is required to have a greater memory capacity for storing the contents in a control table recorded on a recording medium. Further, data control on a control table is limited to a case where it is executed by a program basis and hence fails to have a satisfactory random access property.

For solving these problems, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method of recording/reproducing video or audio data wherein the need of a memory in which a control table is stored is eliminated from a reproduction apparatus, and to provide a disk and an apparatus for and a method of reproducing the disk.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a recording/reproducing method excellent in a random access property wherein reproduction is started from an arbitrary unit in the course of the program, and provide a disk and an apparatus for and a method of reproducing the disk.

That is, the present invention relates to a method of recording/reproducing video data or audio data comprising the steps of recording a plurality of unit data each composed of a plurality of sectors such that these unit data constitute a series of programs wherein said each sector includes sector link data and real data, said sector link data includes address information of unit data or a program related to each sector, and said real data includes video data or audio data; and accessing a second sector using the address information of the unit data or program recorded on a first sector.

In this invention, since address information of at least a head sector of a next program is recorded in each sector, a reproduction order among the programs can be obtained without using information of the control table by reading the address information with a reproduction apparatus, so that a plurality of programs are continuously reproduced. A memory for the control table can be therefore eliminated from the reproduction apparatus.

According to the present invention, besides address information of a head sector of a next program, address information of at least a head sector of next unit data is recorded, so that reproduction can be started from an arbitrary unit in the course of the program. More specifically, in the reproduction apparatus according to the present invention, once a switching request of switching the operation to program reproduction after arbitrary time T is accepted, a head sector of the program after time T is searched and thereafter the head sector is retrieved through a track jump. When the head sector is retrieved, address information of a head sector of the next unit data recorded on the sector is read, so that reproduction is executed from the head sector of the next unit data on the basis of the address information.

The above and other objects, features, and ad-

vantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a view illustrating a relationship between a physical format and a logical format on an optical disk that is a recording medium of one embodiment according to the present invention; FIG. 2 is a view illustrating a construction of the sector shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a view illustrating an example of a story control table;

FIG. 4 is a view illustrating an example of a program control table;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating a whole hardware construction of an optical disk reproduction apparatus of an embodiment according to the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a flowchart illustrating a processing procedure when a story is reproduced;

FIG. 7 is a view illustrating a reproduction time control table of each program;

FIG. 8 is a view illustrating a detailed construction of DUT identification;

FIG. 9 is a view illustrating a recording format in a conventional optical disk; and

FIG. 10 is a view illustrating a data stream recorded in a data area in FIG. 9.

In what follows, a preferred embodiment according to the present invention will be described referring to the drawings.

FIG. 1 is a view illustrating a relationship between a physical format and a logical format on an optical disk that is a recording medium of an embodiment according to the present invention. In FIG. 1, numeral 100 is a data stream recorded on the optical disk. The data stream 100 comprises an arrangement of variable length data units (hereinafter, simply referred to as DUTs.) 101. The DUT 101 comprises a DUT header 102, sub video data 103, audio data 104, and main video data 105 on the logical format. The sub video data 103, audio data 104, and main video data 105 are variable length compression data, and signal lengths thereof are defined respectively on the basis of predetermined reproduction time. Each data in the DUT 101 comprises a plurality of sectors 106 on the physical format.

FIG. 2 is a view illustrating the structure of the sector 106.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the sector 106 comprises a header 202 and real data 201. The header 202 comprises a synchronizing header 203 on which the number of the sector 106 and a synchronizing signal for establishing synchronization upon reproduction of the data are recorded, and sector link data (hereinafter, simply referred to as SLD.) 204. The SLD 204 comprises a control area head sector number 205, an identification flag 206, a BOOK number 207, a story number 208, a program number and a DUT number

209, a DUT identification 210, a next program head sector number 211, a present program head sector number 212, a previous program head sector number 213, a next DUT head sector number 214, a present DUT head sector number 215, a previous DUT head sector number 216.

Details of the story number 208 and the program number 209 are as follows.

The story means a group of video data and audio data both having a relationship on the logical format. A motion picture and the like correspond thereto, concretely. One story or a plurality of such stories exist on one disk. The story is consisted of a plurality of programs. A plurality of stories may share partial video and/or audio data. For example, two stories A, B are assumed to be recorded, and one story A is assumed to include a violence scene which might have a bad influence upon the juveniles. In this case, there can be recorded as the other story B quite the same video and audio (program) as the story A except for the violence scene, which is replaced with another video and audio (program) in the story B.

FIG. 3 is a view illustrating an example of a story control table recorded on the control area on the optical disk.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, on the table there are recorded the number of programs of each story and a series of the numbers. Herein, the programs 3 and 4 of the story A correspond to the aforementioned violence scene, and in the story B those programs are replaced by programs 7 and 8 of a scene without any problems. In this instance, the programs 0, 1, 2, 5, and 6 are shared by the stories A and B for effective utilization of disk capacity.

FIG. 4 is a view illustrating an example of a program control table recorded on a control area on the optical disk.

As illustrated in FIG. 4, the table includes start sector numbers and end sector numbers of programs 0 - N recorded thereon.

In the following, there will be described an optical disk reproduction apparatus having such a recording format.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating the whole hardware construction of the optical disk reproduction apparatus.

In FIG. 5, numeral 501 denotes an optical disk, and numeral 502 denotes a pickup for irradiating the optical disk 501 with laser light and reading the intensity of reflected light thereof as a reproduction signal. The reproduction signal obtained by the pickup 502 is inputted into a waveform equalization/PLL circuit 503 where it is subjected to processing such as waveform equalization, data slicing, etc., and is sent to a synchronous reproduction circuit 504 as a data stream. The synchronous reproduction circuit 504 detects a synchronizing header 203 on a sector illustrated in FIG. 2 from the data stream and supplies data to be

reproduced to an error correcting circuit (ECC) 505. The error correcting circuit 505 executes error correction on the input data when there are some errors therein and transfers an error correction result to a video separation circuit 506. The video separation circuit 506 separates video data and audio data from the data and stores them in storage areas independent of each other in a cash memory 507, separately. The video data and the audio data stored in the cash memory 507 are read out following a request from a video reproduction circuit 508 and an audio reproduction circuit 509, respectively, and are subjected to a necessary signal processing in the video reproduction circuit 508 and the audio reproduction circuit 509 and are thereafter reproduced by a TV monitor 510 and a speaker 511.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart illustrating processing procedures upon reproduction of a story.

In this case, the story is first selected and set on a control panel 512 in step 601. Then, the number of programs constituting the story which is desired to be reproduced is read out from the story control table illustrated in FIG. 3. The number is stored in a register 513 in step 602. Then, a start sector number of a first program of the story to be reproduced is read from the program control table illustrated in FIG. 4, and is stored in a register 514. Thereafter, a start sector number PS of the first program stored in the register 514 is set in a sector decision circuit 515 in step 603.

A track jump signal generation circuit 516 calculates a track number TN by which tracks are jumped on the basis of the start sector number PS set in the sector decision circuit 515 in step 604, and supplies a jump signal to a servo control circuit 517 that instructs the pickup 502 to jump by about the TN tracks. Hereby, the pickup 502 jumps to the neighborhood of a target track in step 605.

Once the pickup 502 reaches the neighborhood of the target track, the synchronous reproduction circuit 504 reproduces a sector number SX in the synchronizing header 203 illustrated in FIG. 2 and stores the reproduced sector number SX in a register 518 in step 606.

The sector decision circuit 515 decides whether the sector number SX stored in the register 518 satisfies the following conditions or not in step 607:

$$PS - N < SX \leq PS$$

(N: sector number corresponding to for example one track)

Provided the reproduced sector number SX does not satisfy the above conditions, the track jump signal generation circuit 516 calculates a track number by which tracks should be further jumped, and supplies an instruction to the servo control circuit 517 to cause the pickup 502 to again jump the tracks.

Provided the reproduced sector number SX satisfies the above conditions, the reproduction of the sector number SX is continued as it is in step 609, and

thereafter provided the reproduced sector number SX is coincident with the start sector number PS of the program in step 608, video and audio data are reproduced in step 611. Once the DUT of a program end is passed through in step 610, the reproduction of the video and audio signals is interrupted, and the operation is returned to the start of the flowchart for the next program. Since the operation time from the present program to the next program is short, the reproduced video and audio signals on the TV are apparently continuous.

In the optical disk reproduction apparatus of the present invention, the program end is decided by detecting the story number 208, and the program number and DUT number 209 in the SLD 204 illustrated in FIG. 2. Since a start sector number of the next program is determined by the next program head sector number 211 in the SLD 204, the number 211 is stored in the register 514 and read by the sector decision circuit 515 for further processing. Once the reproduction program number reaches the program number which has been stored in the register 513 and the reproduction of the video and audio signals is completed in step 612, the entire reproduction is concluded.

As another embodiment of the optical disk reproduction apparatus, a modification is contemplated wherein a program terminator code (all "1" for example) is inserted into the next program head sector number 211 of the SLD 204 of a sector in the final program. Hereby, there are eliminated the need of an area for recording a program number of a story on the disk, and also as hardware a circuit for registering the information, e.g., the register 513 illustrated in FIG. 6 becomes unnecessary.

According to the present embodiment, there is eliminated the need of provision of a large memory capacity on the optical disk reproduction apparatus for storing such a control table as illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4, for example, by recording the SLD 204 constructed as illustrated in FIG. 2 on each sector.

Additionally, according to the present invention, when the disk after time Ts seconds is intended to be reproduced during the reproduction, that portion of the disk can be easily accessed. Operation in this case will be described below.

First, a request for reproduction after the time Ts seconds is set on the control panel 512. Hereby, a DUT number calculation circuit 519 first calculates a program number and a DUT number after the time Ts seconds. FIG. 7 illustrates the control table on which reproduction times of the respective programs 0 - N have been registered. Since the reproduction times of the respective programs 0 - N have been registered on the control table as described above, it is possible to calculate the position on the program after the time Ts seconds with reference to the control table. It is noted herein that in the control table illustrated in FIG. 7 the reproduction time may be denoted by the

number of DUTs.

As an example, a case will be described where in reproduction of the story A the disk after $T_s = 1000$ seconds is reproduced. It is herein assumed that the present program number is 0, and the DUT number is 20, and further concrete details of the control table in FIG. 7 are as follows.

Reproduction time of program 0 = 200 seconds
 Reproduction time of program 1 = 300 seconds
 Reproduction time of program 2 = 100 seconds
 Reproduction time of program 3 = 400 seconds
 Reproduction time of program 4 = 300 seconds
 Reproduction time T_0 from the present DUT to

the end of the program 0 is expressed by

$$T_0 = 200 - 0.5 \times 20 = 190 \text{ seconds,}$$

assuming that reproduction time of 1 DUT is 0.5 second. Accordingly,

$$T_0 + T_1 + T_2 + T_3 = 990 \text{ seconds,}$$

the reproduction after $T_s = 1000$ seconds may be executed at a portion 10 seconds after the initiation of the program 4. Namely, that portion is

$$10/0.5 = 20$$

in DUT conversion, so that a portion from a DUT number 21 of the program 4 may be reproduced.

Provided in such a manner the objective program number and the DUT number are calculated, a start sector number of the program 4 is then read from the program control table in FIG. 4, and set in the sector decision circuit 515 through the register 514.

The track jump signal generation circuit 516 calculates a track T_N to be jumped from the start sector number SD set in the sector decision circuit 515, and supplies a jump signal to the servo control circuit 517 such that it jumps by about T_N tracks. Hereby, the pickup 502 jumps to the neighborhood of the target track. Thereafter, the sector is reproduced at the jump destination and provided the reproduced sector number is coincident with the foregoing start sector number SD in the sector decision circuit 515, the next DUT head sector number 214 of the SLD 204 is detected, and the sector number 214 is again stored in the register 514 and the jump operation is repeated. Succeedingly, the target 21st DUT head sector is detected and video and audio data are reproduced. Hereby, the reproduction after the time T_s seconds is reproduced. Provided the T_s is made short and made continuous, two times the speed of reproduction and four times the speed of reproduction are made possible.

Further, in the present embodiment, it is possible to retrieve a sector using another information in the SLD 204 as follows. In this instance, a specific retrieving table is unnecessary.

It is possible for example the head sector of a program being reproduced up to then is retrieved from the head sector number 212 of the present program and the reproduction is again executed from the head of the same program. Similarly, it is possible to retrieve the head sector of a previous program with re-

spect to the program reproduced up to that time. It is also possible to retrieve the head sector of a DUT including a sector reproduced up to that time from the head sector number 215 of the present DUT and it is also possible to retrieve the head sector of a previous DUT with respect to a DUT including a sector reproduced up to that time.

Even if the reproduction operation is interrupted owing to any trouble produced in the reproduction apparatus, provided the head sector of the control area is searched from the control area head sector number 205 and the control data is read, the processing can immediately be restarted.

Further, the DUT identification 210 is employed when it is impossible to search for some reasons what the present DUT indicates. More specifically, it is possible to decide what the present reproduction data indicates by reading the DUT identification 210. FIG. 8 is a view illustrating the detailed structure of the DUT identification 210. As illustrated in the same figure, the DUT identification 210 is composed of 1 byte data, the MSB (Most Significant Bit) of which indicates whether or not the DUT is reproducible without conditions. The 2nd bit indicates whether or not a sector itself is a DUT head sector. The 3rd and 4th bits indicate that data of the sector itself is any of a DUT header, a sub video, an audio, and a main video. Additionally, the 5th bit indicates that the sector itself is a control data area or a data area.

According to the recording medium and the reproduction apparatus of the present invention, at least address information of a head sector of the next program is recorded in each sector, so that a plurality of programs can be continuously reproduced following a reproduction order among programs which can be obtained without use of information of a control table. Thus a memory for the control table can be eliminated from the reproduction apparatus.

Additionally, the address information of the head sector of the next program and address information of the head sector of the next unit are recorded in each sector, so that the reproduction can be started from an arbitrary unit in the course of the program.

Claims

1. A method of recording/reproducing video data or audio data comprising the steps of;
 - recording a plurality of unit data each composed of a plurality of sectors such that these unit data constitute a series of programs, said each sector including sector link data and real data, said sector link data including address information of unit data or a program related to each sector, and said real data including video data or audio data; and
 - accessing a second sector using the ad-

dress information of the unit data or program recorded on a first sector.

2. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes address information of a head sector of a next program.
3. The method according to claim 2,
wherein a program terminator code is inserted as the address information of the head sector of the next program in the case of a final program which does not have a next program.
4. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a header sector of the unit data to which said sector belongs.
5. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a head sector of previous unit data.
6. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a head sector of next unit data.
7. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a head sector of a present program.
8. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a head sector of a previous program.
9. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the sector link data further includes information indicative of the type of data of a sector itself on a logical format.
10. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the method further comprises the step of recording a control area at least composed of a reproduction order of said programs and address information of a head sector of said each program, and
wherein the sector link data further includes the address information of the head sector in said control area.
11. A disk comprising:
sector link data including address information of unit data or a program related to each sec-

tor, each unit data composed of a plurality of the sectors, and a plurality of the unit data constituting a series of programs, and
real data including video data or audio data whose signal length is defined on the basis of predetermined reproduction time.

12. The disk according to claim 11,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes address information of a head sector of a next program.
13. The disk according to claim 12,
wherein a program terminator code is inserted as the address information of the head sector of the next program in the case of a final program which does not have a next program.
14. The disk according to claim 11,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a header sector of the unit data to which said sector belongs.
15. The disk according to claim 11,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a head sector of previous unit data.
16. The disk according to claim 11,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a head sector of next unit data.
17. The disk according to claim 11,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a head sector of a present program.
18. The disk according to claim 11,
wherein the unit data or program related to each sector includes the address information of a head sector of a previous program.
19. The disk according to claim 11,
wherein the sector link data further includes information indicative of the type of data of a sector itself on a logical format.
20. The disk according to claim 11,
wherein the disk further comprises a control area at least composed of a reproduction order of said programs and address information of a head sector of said each program, and
wherein the sector link data further includes the address information of the head sector of said control area.

21. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing a disk on which a plurality of unit data each composed of a plurality of sectors are recorded such that these unit data constitute a series of programs, said each sector including sector link data and real data, said sector link data including address information of unit data or a program related to each sector, said real data including video data or audio data, and real data including video data or audio data whose signal length is defined on the basis of predetermined reproduction time, the apparatus comprising:

extraction means for extracting address information of a head sector of the next program recorded on said sector; and

control means for controlling the operation using the address information extracted by said extraction means such that said plurality of programs are continuously reproduced.

22. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing a disk on which a plurality of unit data each composed of a plurality of sectors are recorded such that these unit data constitute a series of programs, said each sector including sector link data and real data, said sector link data including address information of a header sector of a next program as address information of unit data or a program related to each sector, said real data including video data or audio data, and real data including video data or audio data whose signal length is defined on the basis of predetermined reproduction time, the apparatus comprising:

input means for accepting a switching request of switching the operation to unit or program reproduction after arbitrary time T_i;

calculation means for calculating a head sector of the program after said time T_i; and

control means for controlling the operation such that a head sector calculated by said calculation means is retrieved through a track jump, and when said head sector is retrieved, address information of a head sector of unit data recorded on said sector is read, and further on the basis of the address information a reproduction is executed from a head sector of said unit data.

23. A reproduction method for reproducing a disk on which a plurality of unit data each composed of a plurality of sectors are recorded such that these unit data constitute a series of programs, said each sector including sector link data and real data, said sector link data including address information of unit data or a program related to each sector, said real data including video data or audio data, and real data including video data or audio data whose signal length is defined on the basis of predetermined reproduction time, the method

comprising the steps of:

extracting address information of a head sector of the next program recorded on said sector; and

controlling the operation using the extracted address information such that said plurality of programs are continuously reproduced.

24. A reproduction method for reproducing a disk on which a plurality of unit data each composed of a plurality of sectors are recorded such that these unit data constitute a series of programs, said each sector recorded sector link data and real data, said sector link data including address information of a header sector of a next program as address information of unit data or a program related to each sector, said real data including video data or audio data, and real data including video data or audio data whose signal length is defined on the basis of predetermined reproduction time, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting a switching request of switching the operation to unit or program reproduction after arbitrary time T_i;

searching a head sector of the program after said time T_i; and

controlling the operation such that the head sector calculated by said calculation means is retrieved through a track jump, and when said head sector is retrieved, address information of a head sector of unit data recorded on the sector is read, and further on the basis of the address information the reproduction is executed from the head sector of said unit data.

FIG. 1

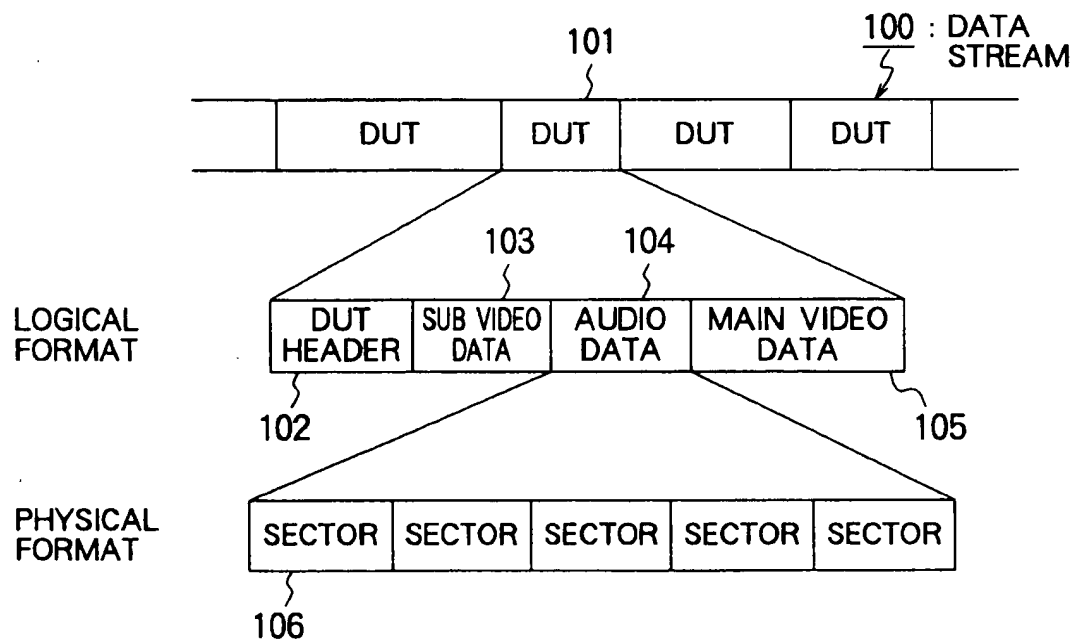


FIG. 2

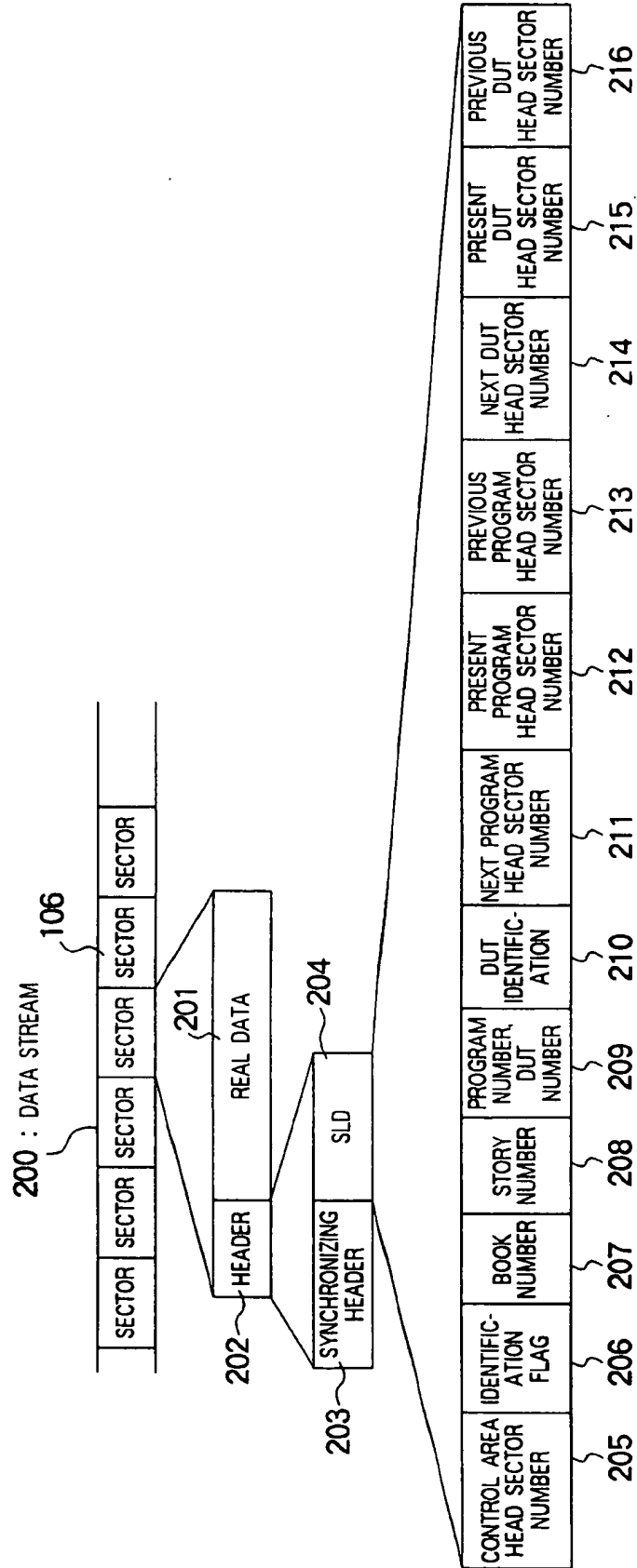


FIG. 3

STORY A	STORY B
NUMBER OF PROGRAMS : 7	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS : 7
PROGRAM 0	PROGRAM 0
PROGRAM 1	PROGRAM 1
PROGRAM 2	PROGRAM 2
PROGRAM 3	PROGRAM 7
PROGRAM 4	PROGRAM 8
PROGRAM 5	PROGRAM 5
PROGRAM 6	PROGRAM 6

FIG. 4

PROGRAM 0	START	SECTOR NUMBER
PROGRAM 0	END	SECTOR NUMBER
PROGRAM 1	START	SECTOR NUMBER
PROGRAM 1	END	SECTOR NUMBER
PROGRAM 2	START	SECTOR NUMBER
PROGRAM 2	END	SECTOR NUMBER
}		
PROGRAM N	START	SECTOR NUMBER
PROGRAM N	END	SECTOR NUMBER

FIG. 5

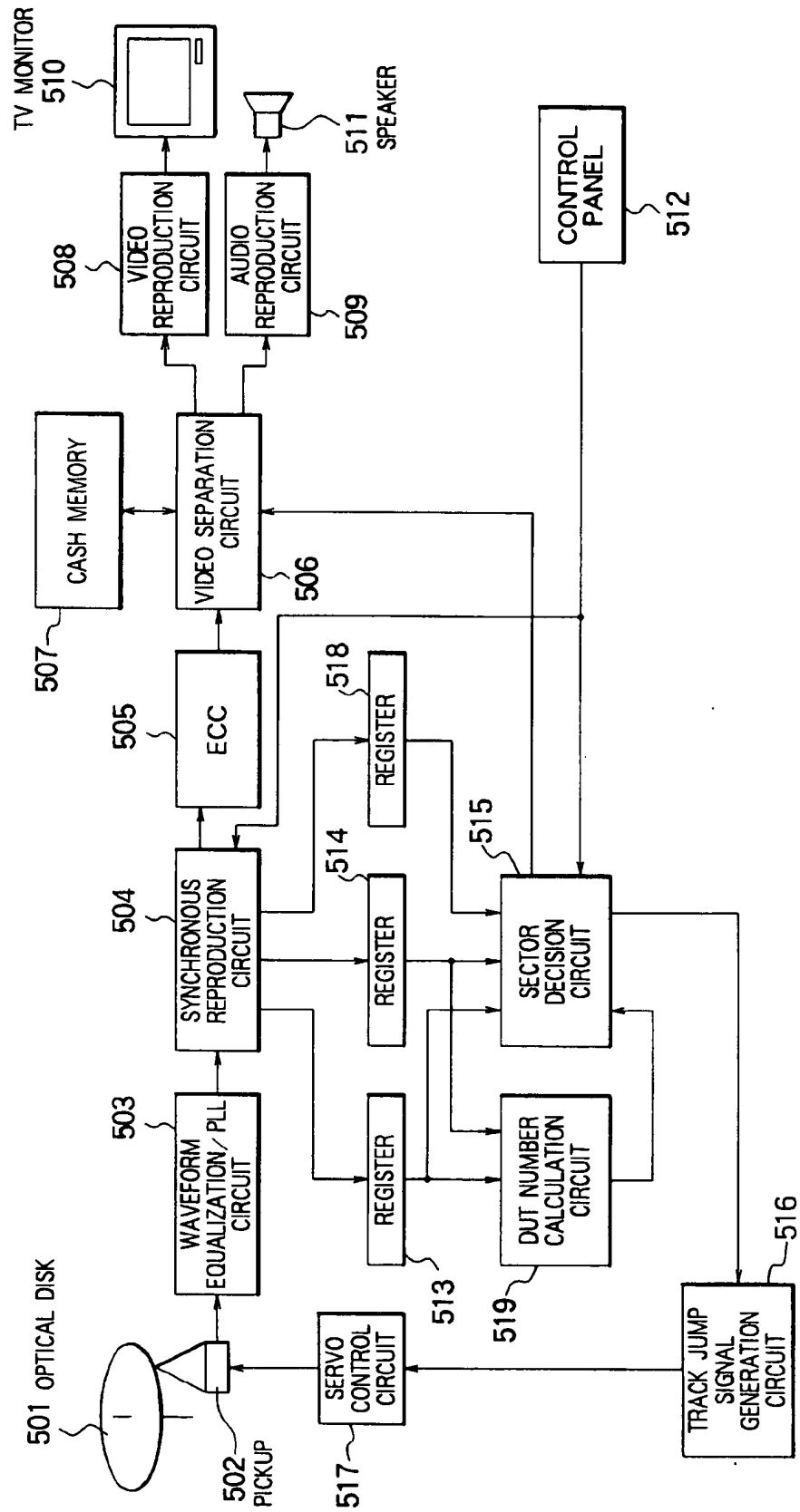


FIG. 6

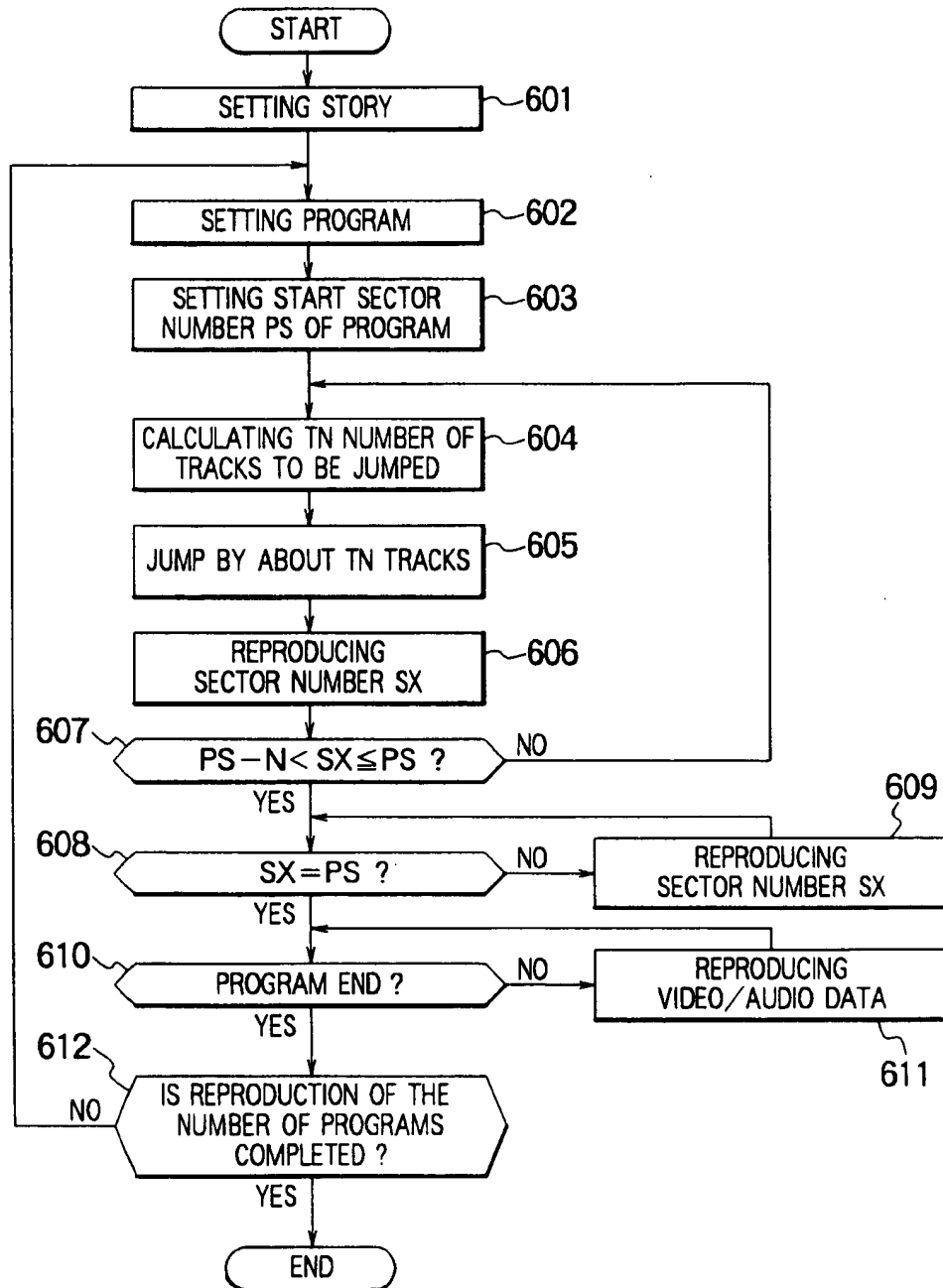


FIG. 7

REPRODUCTION TIME OF PROGRAM 0
REPRODUCTION TIME OF PROGRAM 1
REPRODUCTION TIME OF PROGRAM 2
REPRODUCTION TIME OF PROGRAM 3
REPRODUCTION TIME OF PROGRAM 4
}
REPRODUCTION TIME OF PROGRAM N

FIG. 8

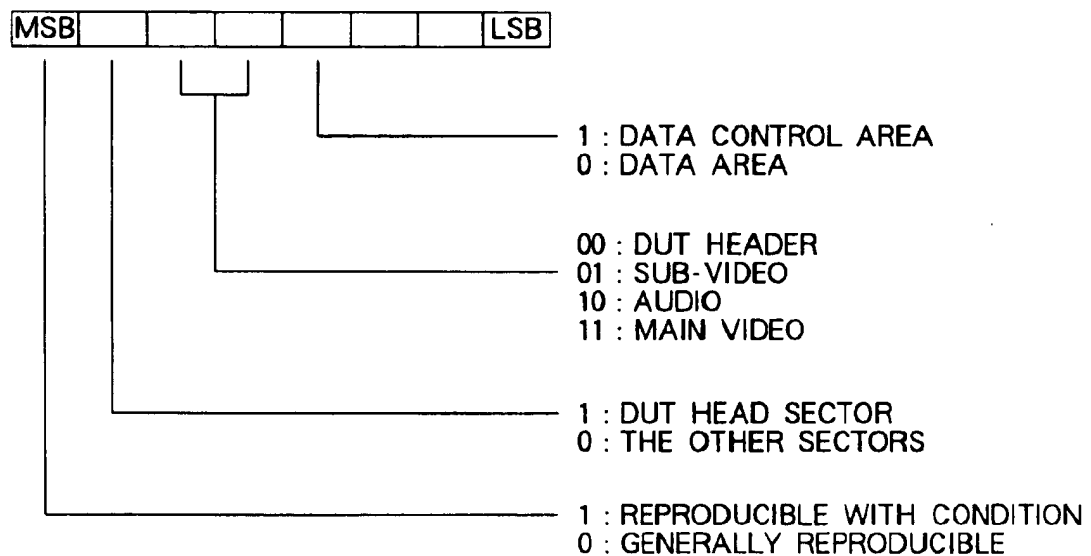


FIG. 9

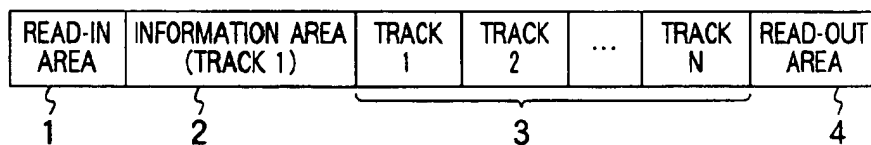


FIG. 10

